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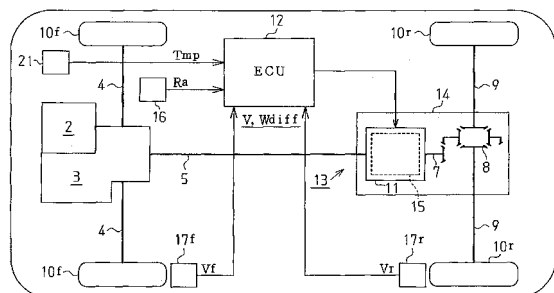
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(54) **Drive force distribution device and method for distributing drive force**

(57) An ECU (12) estimates the temperatures of the heat generating portions provided in a drive force transmission system, or a transaxle (3), a rear differential (8), and a torque coupling (11), in correspondence with not only the rotational speed (the differential rotational speed) of each heat generating portion and the torque transmission rate of the torque coupling (11) but also the outside temperature *Tmp* detected by an outside temperature sensor (21). If the estimated temperature of any of the heat generating portions exceeds a respective predetermined temperature, the ECU (12) controls operation of the torque coupling (11) to suppress overheating of the heat generating portion. That is, the temperature of each heat generating portion is accurately detected through a simplified structure and overheating of the heat generating portion is effectively suppressed (Fig. 1).

Fig. 1



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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Berlin		Date of completion of the search 24 May 2007	Examiner Nielles, Daniel
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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